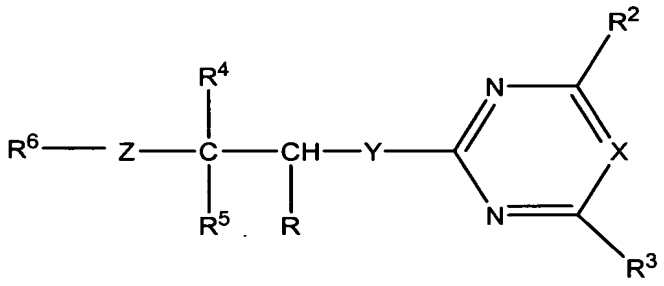
IN THE CLAIMS:

1. Canceled

2. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula I



(I)

where R is formyl, tetrazole, nitrile, a COOH group or a radical which can be hydrolyzed to COOH, and the other substituents have the following meanings:

R^2 is hydrogen, hydroxyl, NH_2, $NH(C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-alkyl})$, $N(C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-alkyl})_2$, halogen, $C_1\text{-}C_4$-alkyl, $C_1\text{-}C_4$-haloalkyl, $C_1\text{-}C_4$-alkoxy, $C_1\text{-}C_4$-haloalkoxy or $C_1\text{-}C_4$-alkylthio;

X is CR^{14} which forms together with CR^3 a 5- or 6-membered ring which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two $C_1\text{-}C_4$-alkyl groups and which ring consists of methylene and/or ethenylene members and one member selected from the group consisting of oxygen, sulfur, NH or $N(C_1\text{-}C_4\text{-alkyl})$, or

CR^{14} which forms together with CR^3 a 6-membered ring which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or two $C_1\text{-}C_4$-alkyl groups and which ring consists of methylene and/or ethenylene members;

R^3 is linked to CR^{14} as indicated above to give a 6-membered ring;

R^4 and R^5, which are identical or different, are

phenyl or naphthyl, which are unsubstituted or substituted by one or more of the following radicals: halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, phenoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, amino, C_1-C_4-alkylamino or C_1-C_4-dialkylamino; or phenyl or naphthyl, which are connected together in the ortho position via a direct linkage, a methylene, ethylene or ethenylene group, an oxygen or sulfur atom or an SO_2, NH or N-alkyl group; or C_3-C_7-cycloalkyl;

R^6 hydrogen, C_1-C_8-alkyl, C_3-C_6-alkenyl, C_3-C_6-alkynyl or C_3-C_8-cycloalkyl, where each of these radicals are unsubstituted or substituted one or more times by: halogen, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_3-C_6-alkenyloxy, C_3-C_6-alkynyloxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-C_4-alkoxycarbonyl, C_3-C_8-alkylcarbonylalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, di-C_1-C_4-alkylamino, phenyl or phenoxy which is substituted one or more times by halogen, nitro, cyano, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy or C_1-C_4-alkylthio;

phenyl or naphthyl, each of which is unsubstituted or substituted by one or more of the following radicals: halogen, nitro, cyano, hydroxyl, amino, C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, phenoxy, C_1-C_4-alkylthio, C_1-C_4-alkylamino, C_1-C_4-dialkylamino or dioxomethylene or dioxoethylene;

a five or six-membered heteroaromatic moiety containing one to three nitrogen atoms and/or one sulfur or oxygen atom, which can carry one to four halogen atoms and/or one or two of the following radicals: C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy, C_1-

C_4-alkylthio, phenyl, phenoxy or phenylcarbonyl, it being possible for the phenyl radicals in turn to carry one to five halogen atoms and/or one to three of the following radicals: C_1-C_4-alkyl, C_1-C_4-haloalkyl, C_1-C_4-alkoxy, C_1-C_4-haloalkoxy and/or C_1-C_4-alkylthio;

Y is sulfur or oxygen or a single bond; and

Z is sulfur, oxygen, -SO- or -SO_2-.

3. Canceled

4. Canceled

5. Canceled

6. Canceled

7. Canceled

8. Canceled

9. Canceled

10. Canceled

11. Canceled

12. (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 2 where R^2 and R^3 each are methyl.

13. (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 2 wherein R^6 is methyl.

14. (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 2 wherein R^2 and R^3 each are methoxy.

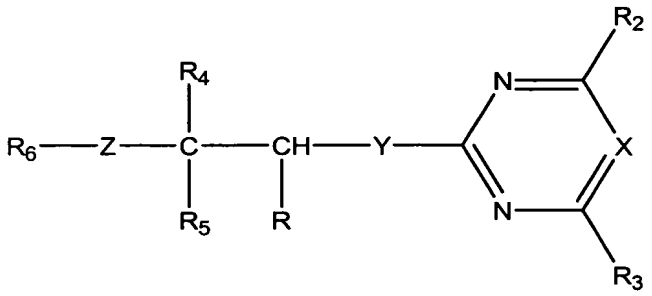
15. (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 2 wherein R^2, R^3 and R^6 each are methyl.

16. (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 2 wherein R^2 and R^3 each are methoxy and R^6 is methyl.

17. (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 2 wherein R is CO_2H, R^2, R^3 and R^6 each are methyl, R^4 and R^5 each are phenyl and Y and Z each are oxygen.

18. (Previously Presented). The compound of claim 2 wherein R is CO_2H, R^2 and R^3 each are methoxy, R^4 and R^5 each are phenyl, R^6 is methyl and Y and Z each are oxygen.

19. (New) A compound having the formula:



wherein:

X is CH;

Y is oxygen;

Z is oxygen;

R is CO_2H;

R^2 is methyl;

R^3 is methyl;

R^4 is phenyl;

R^5 is phenyl; and

R^6 is methyl,

and salts thereof.

20. (New) The compound of formula I as defined in claim 19, wherein the compound is further defined as an optically active enantiomer.

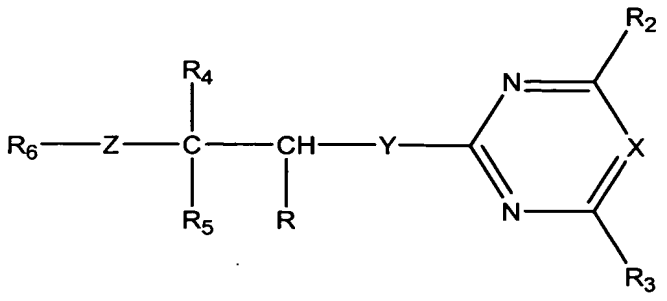
21. (New) The compound of claim 20, wherein the enantiomer is the S enantiomer, and salts thereof.

22. (New) The compound of claim 20, wherein the enantiomer is the pure form of the S enantiomer.

23. (New) The compound of claim 20, wherein the enantiomer is the R enantiomer, and salts thereof

24. (New) The compound of claim 20, wherein the enantiomer is the pure form of the R enantiomer.

25. (New) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound having the formula:



wherein:

X is CH;

Y is oxygen;

Z is oxygen;

R is CO_2H;

R^2 is methyl;

R^3 is methyl;

R^4 is phenyl;

R^5 is phenyl;

R^6 is methyl; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

dispersed in a pharmaceutical buffer, diluent or excipient.

26. (New) The formulation of claim 25, formulated for delivery via oral, parenteral, subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, sublingual, transdermal or nasopharyngeal routes.

27. (New) The formulation of claim 25, wherein the compound is in a solid form.

28. (New) The formulation of claim 25, wherein the compound is in a liquid form.

29. (New) The formulation of claim 25, wherein the compound is formulated as an uncoated tablet, as a coated tablet, a capsule, a powder, a granule, a suppository, a solution, a colloid, an ointment, a cream, a vapor or a spray.

30. (New) The formulation of claim 25, further comprising one or more of a tablet binder, a filler, a preservative, a tablet disintegrant, a flow regulator, a plasticizer, a wetting agent, a dispersant, an emulsifier, a solvent, a release-slowing agent, an antioxidant, or a propellant gas.

31. (New) The formulation of claim 25, wherein the compound is an optically active enantiomer.

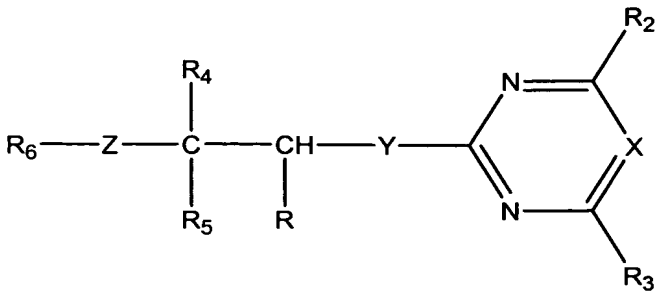
32. (New) The formulation of claim 31, wherein the enantiomer is the S enantiomer, and salts thereof.

33. (New) The formulation of claim 13, wherein the enantiomer is the pure form of the S enantiomer.

34. (New) The formulation of claim 31, wherein the enantiomer is the R enantiomer, and salts thereof.

35. (New) The formulation of claim 31, wherein the enantiomer is the pure form of the R enantiomer.

36. (New) A compound of the formula:



wherein:

X is CH;

Y is oxygen;

Z is oxygen;

R is CO_2H;

R^2 is methoxy;

R^3 is methoxy;

R^4 is phenyl;

R^5 is phenyl;

R^6 is methyl,

and salts thereof.

37. (New) The compound of claim 36, wherein the compound is an optically active enantiomer.

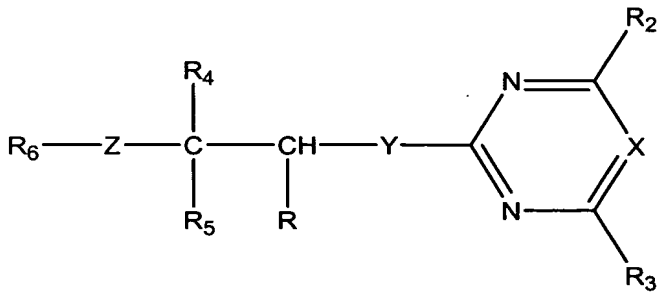
38. (New) The compound of claim 37, wherein the enantiomer is the S enantiomer, and salts thereof.

39. (New) The compound of claim 37, wherein the enantiomer is the pure form of the S enantiomer.

40. (New) The compound of claim 37, wherein the enantiomer is the R enantiomer, and salts thereof

41. (New) The compound of claim 37, wherein the enantiomer is the pure form of the R enantiomer.

42. (New) A pharmaceutical formulation comprising a compound having the formula:



wherein:

X is CH;

Y is oxygen;

Z is oxygen;

R is CO_2H;

R^2 is methoxy;

R^3 is methoxy;

R^4 is phenyl;

R^5 is phenyl;

R^6 is methyl; and

pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof,

dispersed in a pharmaceutical buffer, diluent or excipient.

43. (New) The formulation of claim 42, formulated for delivery via oral, parenteral, subcutaneous, intravenous, intramuscular, intraperitoneal, sublingual, transdermal or nasopharyngeal routes.

44. (New) The formulation of claim 42, wherein the compound is in a solid form.

45. (New) The formulation of claim 42, wherein the compound is in a liquid form.

46. (New) The formulation of claim 42, wherein the compound is formulated as an uncoated tablet, as a coated tablet, a capsule, a powder, a granule, a suppository, a solution, a colloid, an ointment, a cream, a vapor or a spray.

47. (New) The formulation of claim 42, further comprising one or more of a tablet binder, a filler, a preservative, a tablet disintegrant, a flow regulator, a plasticizer, a wetting agent, a dispersant, an emulsifier, a solvent, a release-slowing agent, an antioxidant, or a propellant gas.

48. (New) The formulation of claim 42, wherein the compound is an optically active enantiomer.

49. (New) The formulation of claim 48, wherein the enantiomer is the S enantiomer, and salts thereof.

50. (New) The formulation of claim 48, wherein the enantiomer is the pure form of the S enantiomer.

51. (New) The formulation of claim 48, wherein the enantiomer is the R enantiomer, and salts thereof.

52. (New) The formulation of claim 48, wherein the enantiomer is the pure form of the R enantiomer.